


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Amulet

KAZU KIBUSHI

BOOK FOUR
THE LAST COUNCIL

 SCHOLASTIC

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KAZU KIBUISHI



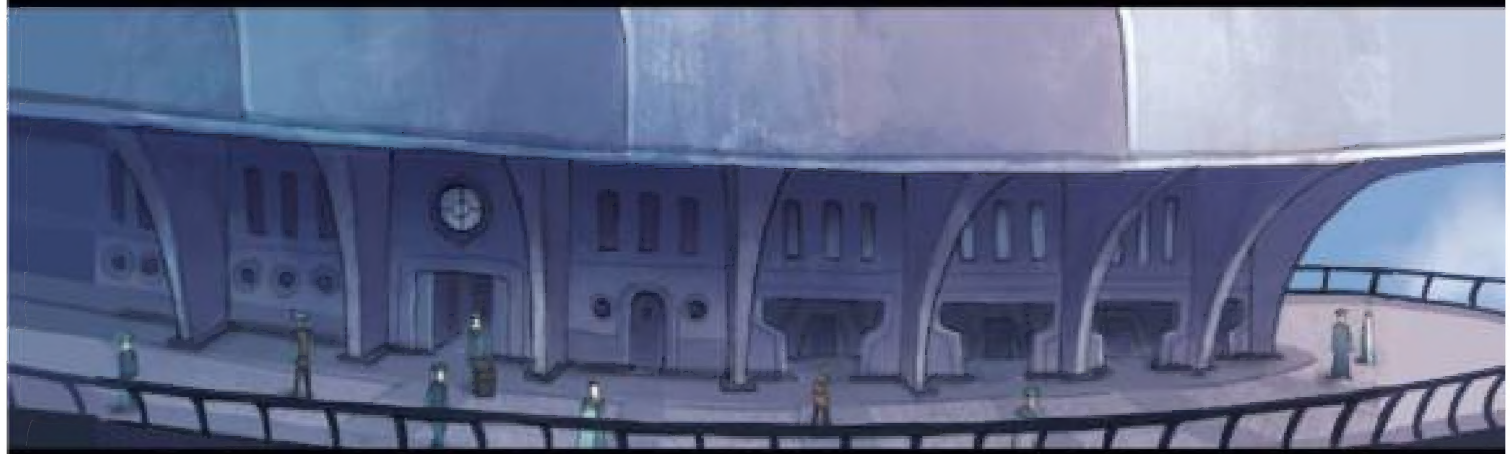
BOOK FOUR
THE LAST COUNCIL



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I APPRECIATE
YOUR CONCERN,
EMILY.



YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT UPON
ENTERING CIELIS,
YOU WILL NO
LONGER HEAR
MY VOICE.



WHY?



THE CITY WAS BUILT BY
THE EARLY STONEKEEPERS
TO SILENCE THE VOICES
OF THE STONES. THERE IS
AN OLD MAGIC AT WORK
IN THOSE WALLS.



WHEN YOU
ENTER THE CITY,
YOU WILL BE
ON YOUR OWN.

I DON'T MEAN
TO BE RUDE,
BUT THAT SOUNDS
GREAT.



YOU ARE VERY
TALENTED, AND
YOU HAVE STRONG
INTUITION.




BUT YOU WILL
STILL NEED MY
GUIDANCE IN
THE END.






I WILL BE
GONE SOON,
SO I WILL LEAVE
YOU WITH A
WARNING.




BEWARE
THE HALL OF
HUMBLE KINGS.


PASS THROUGH
TO THE END AND
THE GAME WILL
BEGIN.



WHAT IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?



WHAT WILL I
FIND AT THE
END?




IT'S BETTER
THAT YOU DO
NOT KNOW.

WHY KEEP
SECRETS FROM
ME?

I'M YOUNG, BUT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING.

YOU ARE
NOT READY.


FWOOSH!



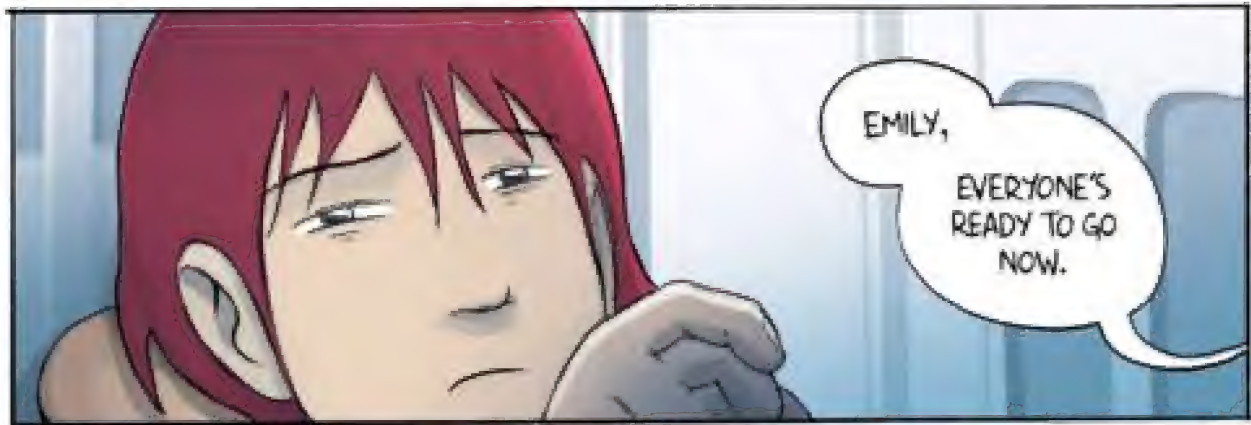
NOT YET.
YOU WILL BE
SOON.

WHEN YOU
BEGIN TO REALIZE
THE TRUE WEIGHT
OF YOUR ACTIONS...

...YOU WILL AWAKEN
TO BECOME THE
PERSON THIS WORLD
NEEDS YOU TO BE.

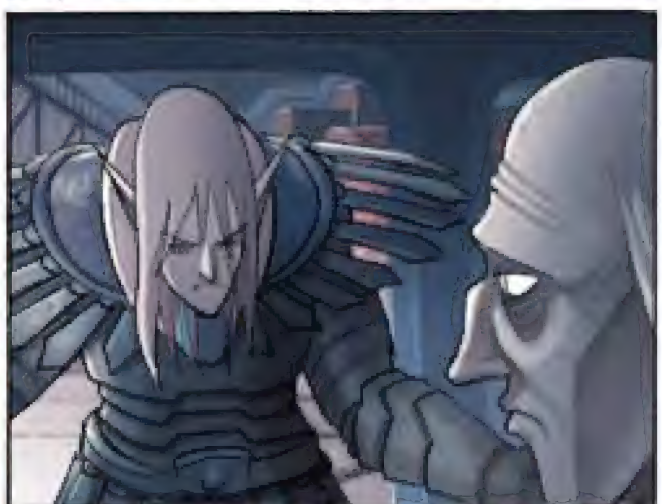


GOOD LUCK,
YOUNG MASTER.

















ARE
YOU OKAY,
MOM?!



ASK ME
WHEN WE
GET THERE!



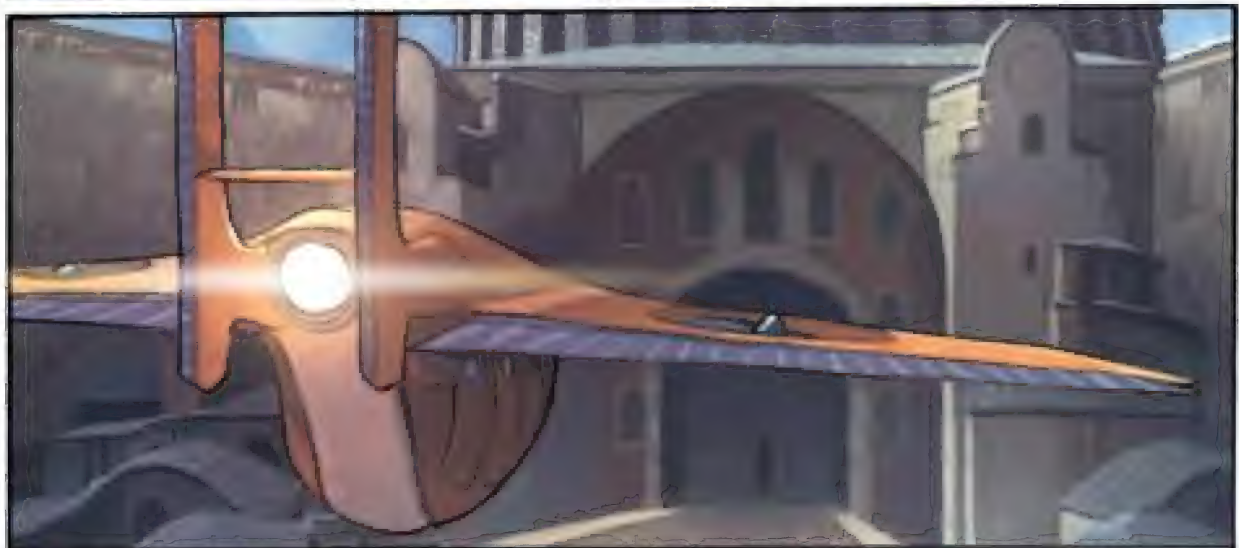
















AS YOU CAN
SEE, WE HAVE THE
FINEST JAILHOUSE
FACILITIES IN
THE SKIES.

THIS IS CELL
BLOCK FOUR, AN AREA
RESERVED FOR OUR
FOREIGN GUESTS.



THE COUNCIL
PLANS TO PUT
YOU TWO ON
TRIAL FOR WAR
CRIMES.

YOU'LL BE
STAYING IN HERE
UNTIL YOU ARE
SUMMONED.



I DON'T WANT
ANY TROUBLE,
UNDERSTAND?

IF I FIND
ANY EXCUSE
TO COME IN HERE
AND REGULATE,
TRUST ME,
I'LL TAKE IT.



IF I CAN
JUST GET
THIS COLLAR
OFF,

I CAN USE
MY STONE TO
BREAK US OUT.







THIS IS
THE GRAND
HALL OF THE
ACADEMY.



IT IS
WHERE THE
MOST POWERFUL
STONEKEEPERS
IN HISTORY HELD
COURT.



AND NOW WE'LL
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO JOIN THEIR
RANKS.



MAX,

IS THIS THE
GUARDIAN COUNCIL'S
CHAMBER?

YES.



HOW DO I
GET INSIDE?

WE NEED TO
SPEAK WITH
THEM.







YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE HAS BEEN FOR YOUR BENEFIT.



YOUR FRIENDS WERE TAKEN ASIDE TO ALLOW YOU TO FOCUS.

THEY ARE QUITE SAFE, AND ARE BEING TREATED AS GUESTS.



TOMORROW WILL BE YOUR FIRST DAY IN THE ACADEMY.

THE COUNCIL IS VERY EXCITED TO SEE HOW YOU PERFORM IN THE TESTS.



WE CAME HERE TO ASK THE COUNCIL FOR HELP.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO JOIN THEM, MAX.



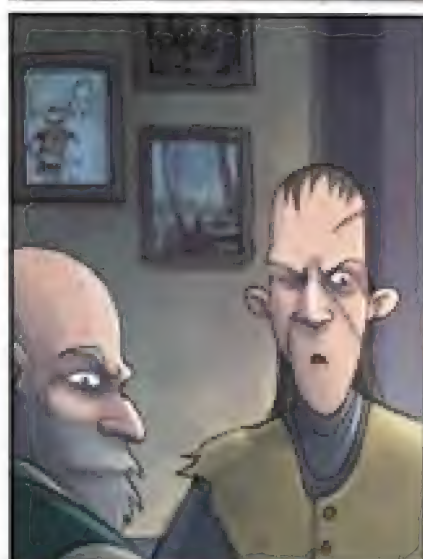












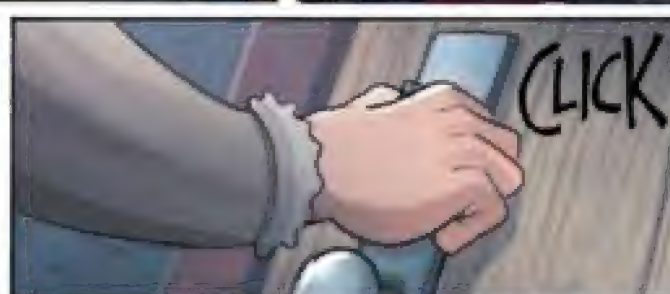






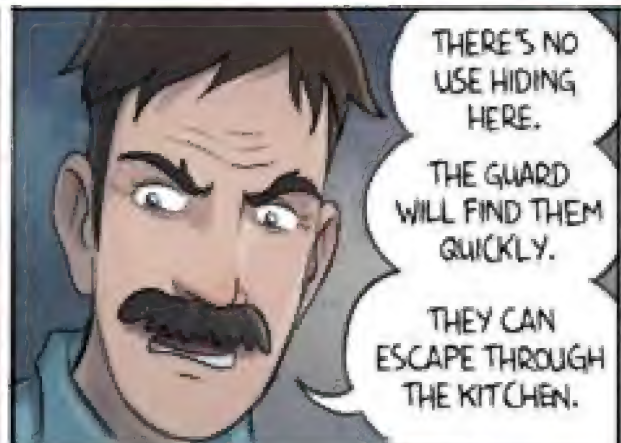


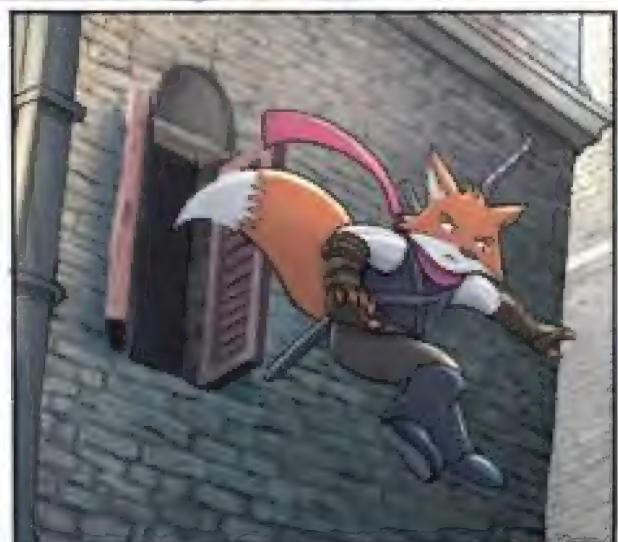
























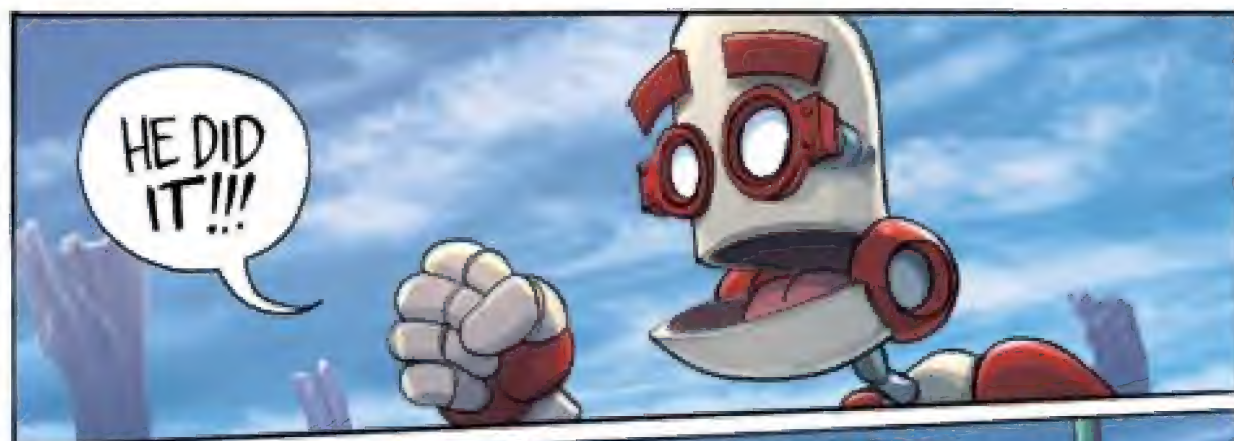


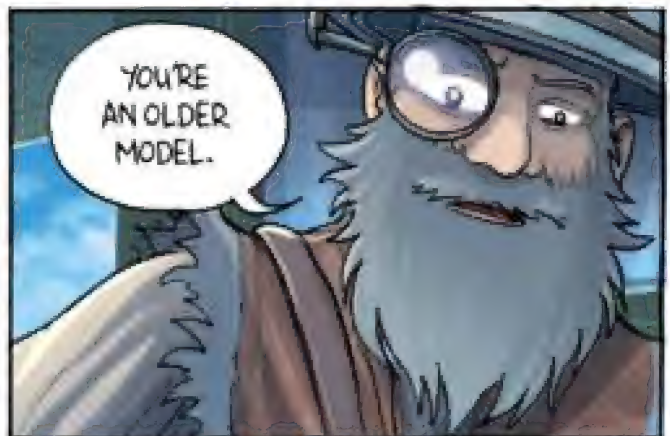
















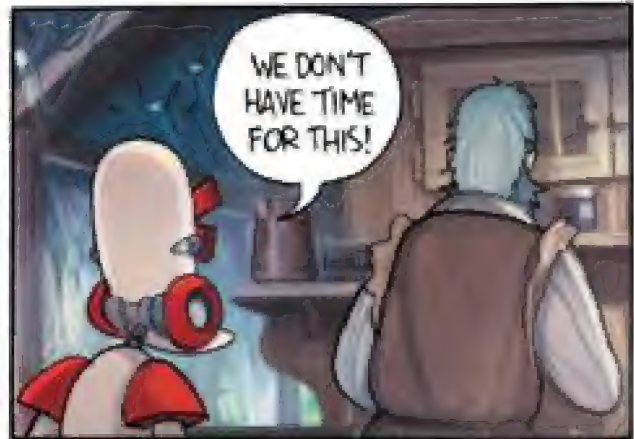






















REALIZING THAT THE MOTHER STONE
CONTAINED TREMENDOUS ENERGY, THE
SETTLERS BURIED IT DEEP BENEATH
THEIR FIRST CITY...



...CIELIS, THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF WINDSOR.



THE ORIGINAL GUARDIAN COUNCIL WAS
CREATED TO GOVERN USE OF THE
MOTHER STONE. SMALL BITS OF THE
POWERFUL GEM WERE CUT AND PRO-
VIDED TO THE EARLY SETTLERS OF
ALLEDIA TO HELP THEM DEVELOP OUR
WORLD.

CENTURIES PASSED, AND HUNDREDS OF
STONEKEEPERS WERE BORN. WITH THEIR
POWERS THEY BUILT THE FOUNDATION
FOR THE GREAT NATIONS OF ALLEDIA,
AND ACCELERATED THE DEVELOPMENT
OF CITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.



OF COURSE, MORE THAN A FEW
STONEKEEPERS ABUSED THE IMMENSE
POWER THAT THE STONES PROVIDED
THEM, AND WAGED WAR ON OTHER
STONEKEEPERS FOR CONTROL OF THE
NATIONS. MANY STONEKEEPERS PER-
ISHED IN THESE BATTLES, AND THEIR
STONES PERISHED WITH THEM.

BY THE TIME I HAD JOINED THE COUNCIL, ONLY A SMALL SHARD OF THE STONE REMAINED. IT WAS DECIDED THAT CUTTING THE FINAL PIECE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO CALL ON ITS POWERS TO HELP DEFEND CIELIS AND THE NATION OF WINDSOR. IT WAS CONSIDERED A LAST RESORT.



YOUR MASTER SILAS FELT THAT IF WE WERE NOT GOING TO USE THE STONE IMMEDIATELY, WE SHOULD DESTROY IT BEFORE IT FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

TO TREAT IT AS AN INSURANCE POLICY, HE REASONED, WAS A DANGEROUS MISTAKE.

HE CRITICIZED THE COUNCIL FOR MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON ITS FEARS, AND HE BELIEVED THAT IF WE CONTINUED DOWN THIS PATH, WE WOULD SEE OUR FEARS REALIZED.



AT THE TIME, I WAS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

AND DUE TO MY INEXPERIENCE, I MADE SOME DECISIONS THAT I WOULD REGRET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.



THE FIRST SUCH DECISION WAS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF REMOVING SILAS FROM THE COUNCIL.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE ELVES UNLEASHED A DEVASTATING ATTACK ON CIELIS AND FORCED THE COUNCIL TO HIDE THE CITY IN THE CLOUDS.



AND THEN I BEGAN TO SEE WHAT SILAS SAW.

THE COUNCIL'S EVERY MOVE WAS MOTIVATED BY FEAR AND I WAS JUST TOO YOUNG TO NOTICE IT BEFORE.



I COULD NO LONGER BE A PART OF THEM.

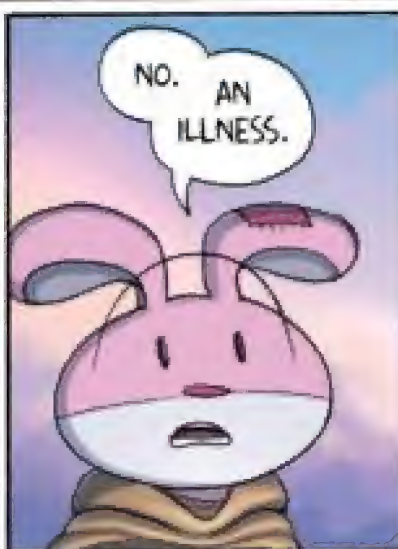
SO I TENDERED MY RESIGNATION.

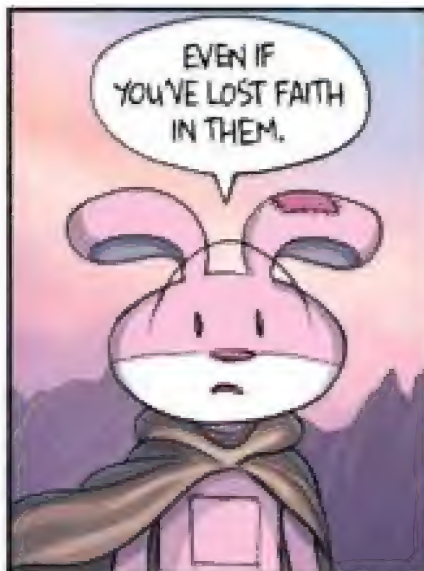
AND YOU JUST... LEFT?











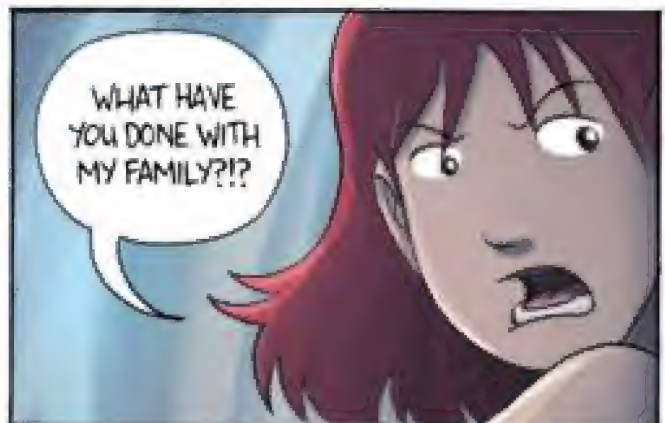




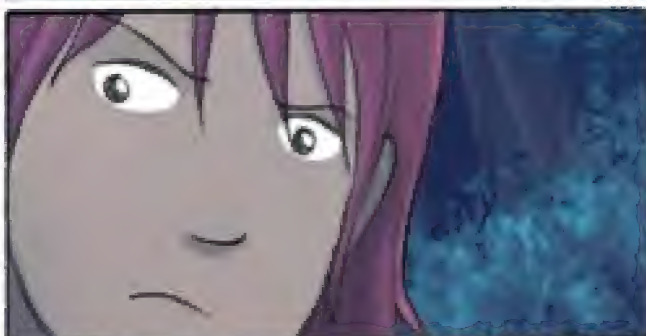










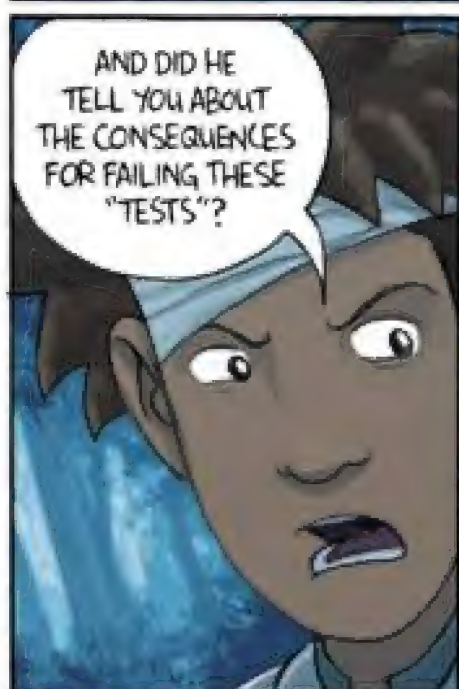


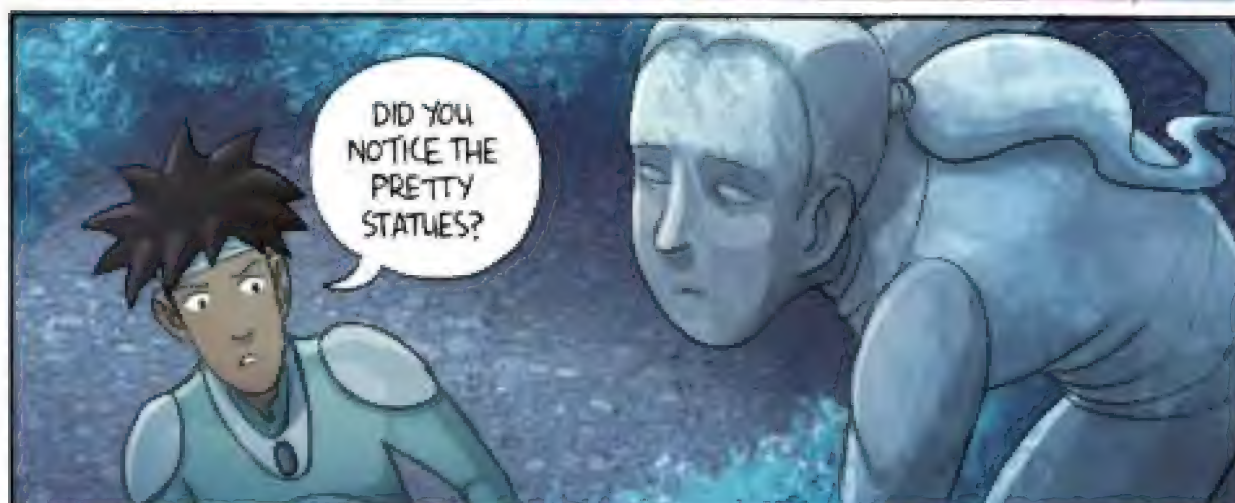






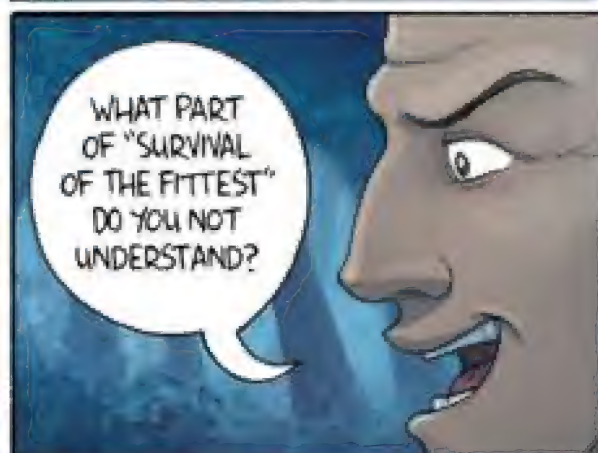














FIND ME IN
THE VOID AND
WE'LL SEE WHO'S
THE LAST ONE
STANDING.



WE FIGHT
EACH OTHER?



WE DO
WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO
SURVIVE.



WHO
BROUGHT
THE LITTLE
TRAITOR?

AND WHY
IS HE EVEN
STILL ALIVE?

SHOVE!

LOOKS LIKE
THE COUNCIL
DECIDED TO
ABANDON HIM.



YOU HEAR
THAT, SHRIMP?

NO ONE
WANTS YOU
ON THEIR
SIDE.



THAT MEANS
THE MOMENT
YOU STEP INTO
THE VOID...

...YOU'RE
AS GOOD AS
STONE.

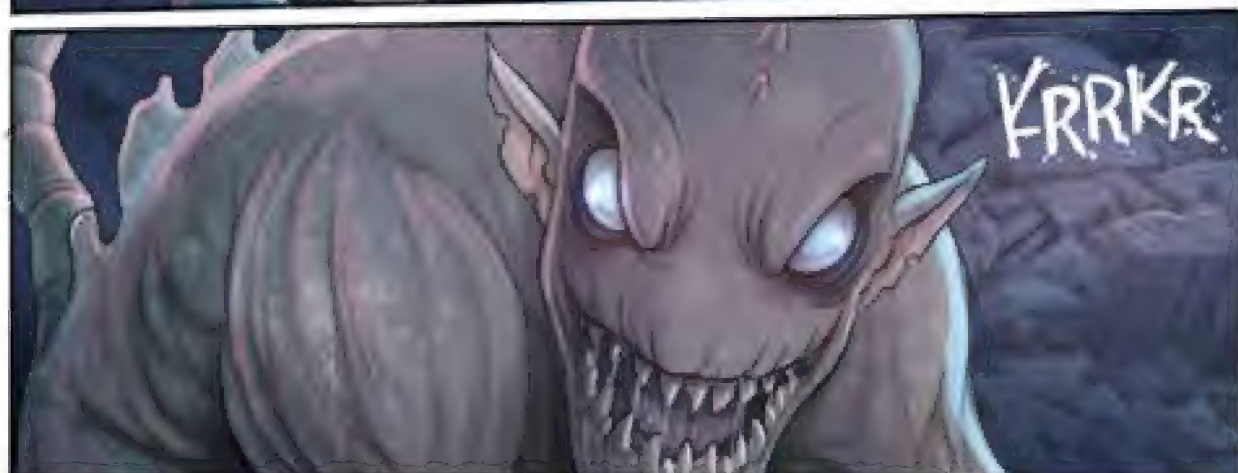












































ARE YOU
OKAY?



YEAH,
I'M FINE.



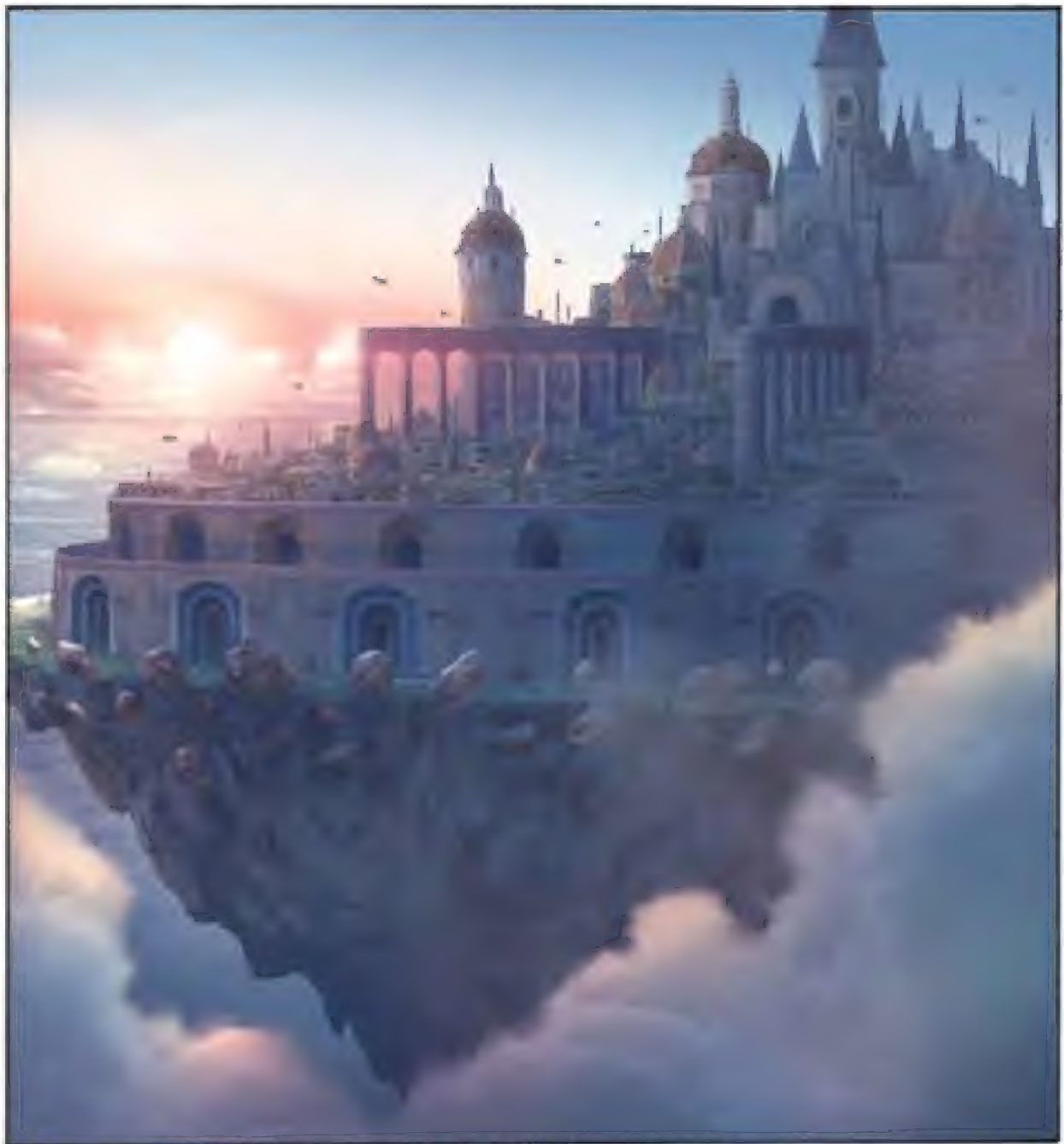








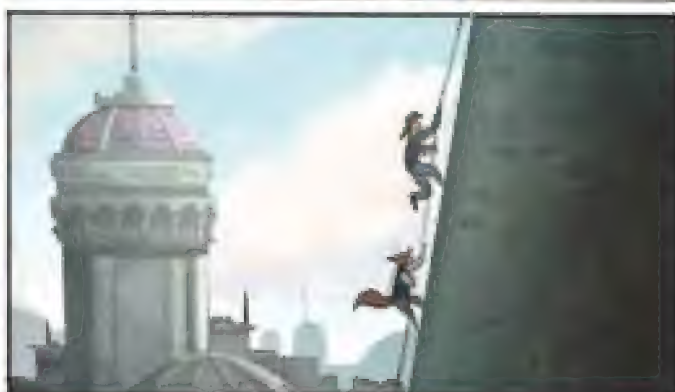
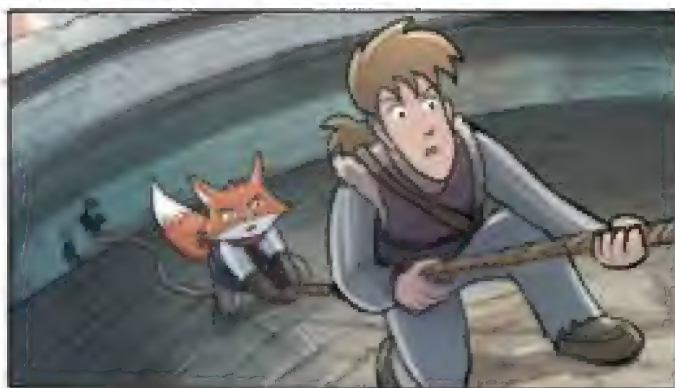
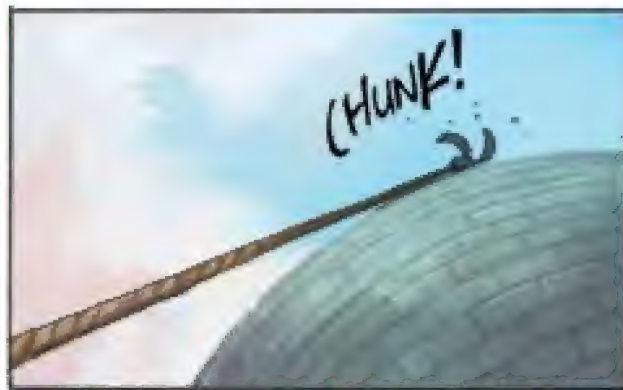




YEARS AGO, I
DESIGNED YARBORO
PENITENTIARY, BUT
IT WAS ONLY AFTER
THE BUILDING WAS
COMPLETE THAT
I REALIZED I HAD
MADE A MISTAKE.













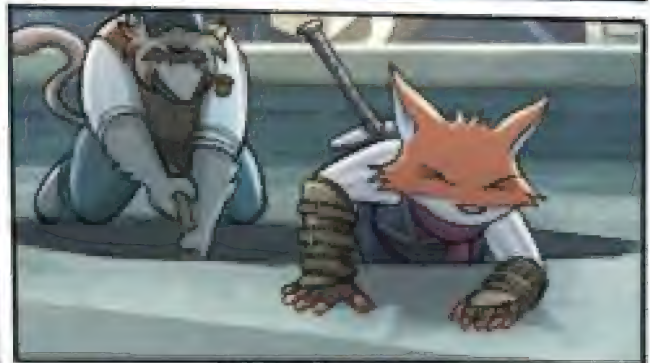
































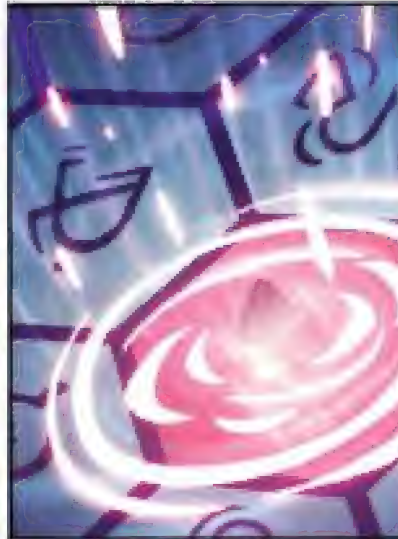








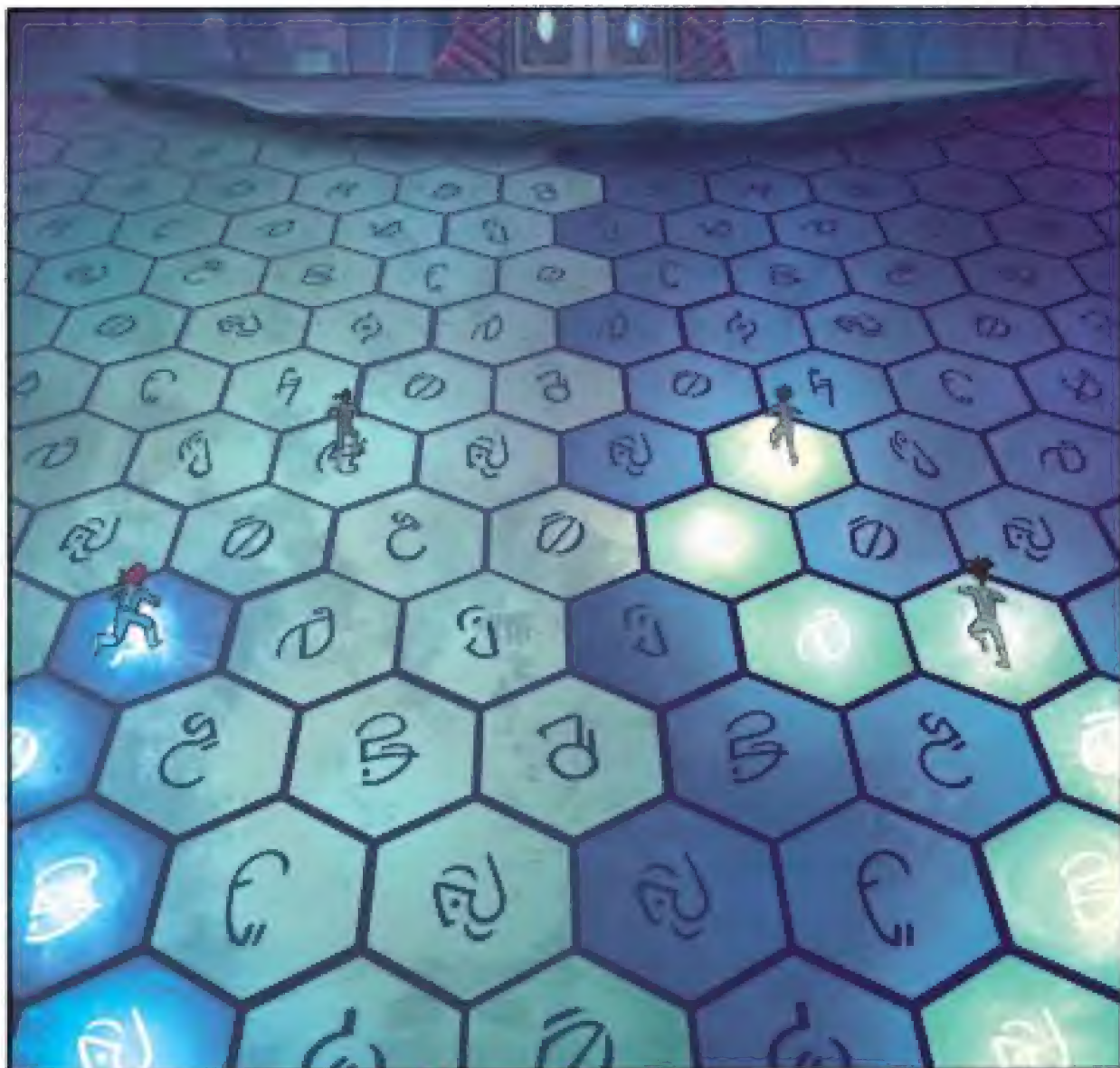




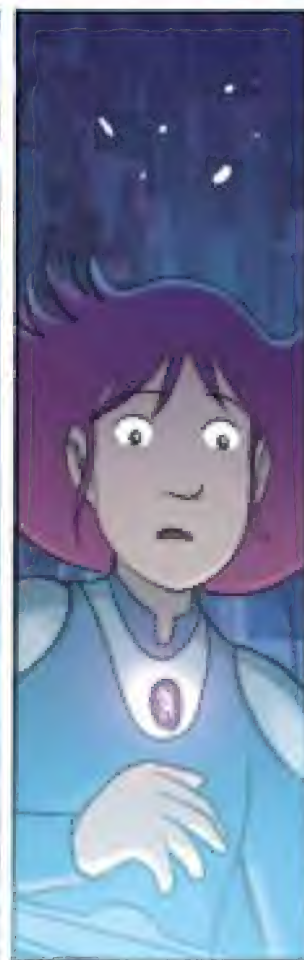
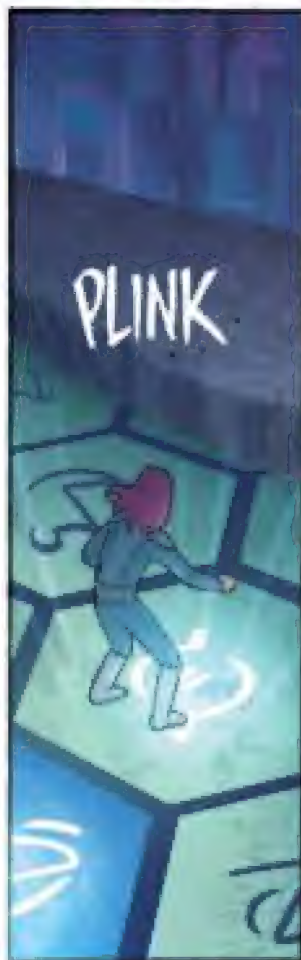




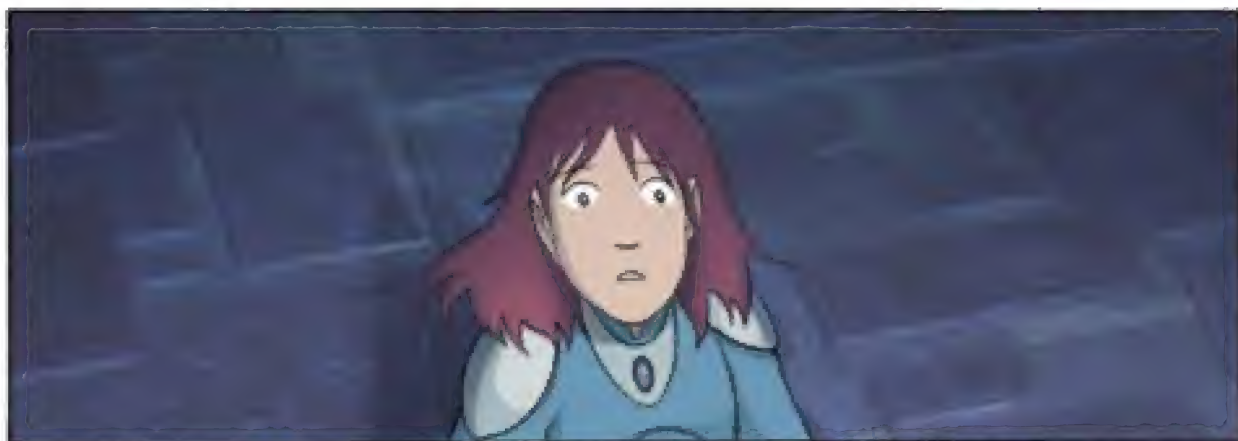














MAX,

THIS
ISN'T THE
EXIT.



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?



BEFORE I ARRIVED
IN CIELIS, MY STONE
TOLD ME ABOUT THIS
HALLWAY.

IT WARNED
ME ABOUT WALKING
THROUGH IT.



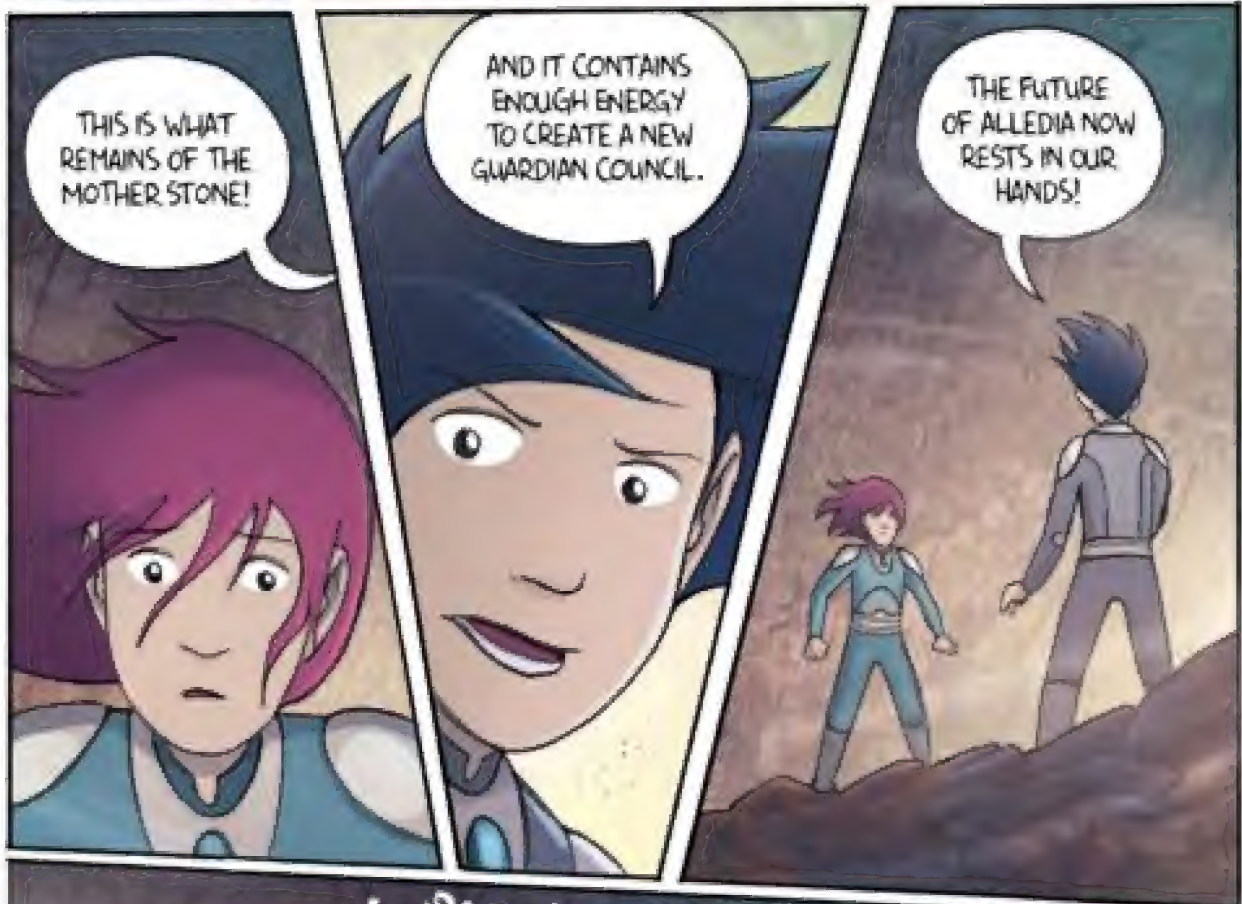
DID IT TELL
YOU WHAT YOU
MIGHT FIND
AT THE END?















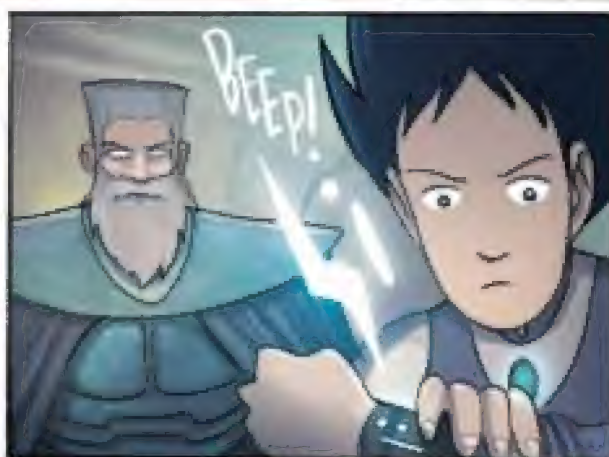






















WHO WAS THAT?



THE GHOST OF AN OLD FRIEND.



DID YOU GET THE STONE?



IT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY.



THE KING WILL BE VERY PLEASED.

WHAT WILL I FIND
AT THE END?







WHY KEEP
SECRETS FROM
ME?



I'M YOUNG, BUT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING.



YOU ARE
NOT READY.



NOT YET.

YOU WILL
BE SOON.



WHEN YOU BEGIN TO
REALIZE THE TRUE WEIGHT
OF YOUR ACTIONS...



...YOU WILL AWAKEN
TO BECOME THE
PERSON THIS WORLD
NEEDS YOU TO BE.































BUT WE'RE
THE LAST ONES
ON OUR SIDE.



WE ARE THE
LAST GUARDIAN
COUNCIL.

AREN'T
WE?




BACK AT THE
ACADEMY, YOU
ENCOUNTERED THE
LIKENESSES OF
SEVERAL YOUNG
STONEKEEPERS.



AMONG THEM
WERE STUDENTS OF
MINE, FROM MANY
YEARS AGO.


RONIN
WAS MY BEST
STUDENT.

SHE WAS THE
YOUNGEST STONE-
KEEPER TO BE OFFERED
A PLACE ON THE
GUARDIAN COUNCIL.




SHE CHOSE NOT TO JOIN
THE COUNCIL, CLAIMING THAT
THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TOO
GREAT FOR A PERSON
HER AGE.

RONIN WOULD HAVE
JOINED A COUNCIL WITH
SEVERAL OTHER POWERFUL
STONEKEEPERS...




BUT YOU'LL BE
JOINED BY AN OLD MAN
FAR PAST HIS PRIME, AND
WE'LL BE UP AGAINST
A VERY POWERFUL
ENEMY.

ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE READY FOR
THIS KIND OF
RESPONSIBILITY?

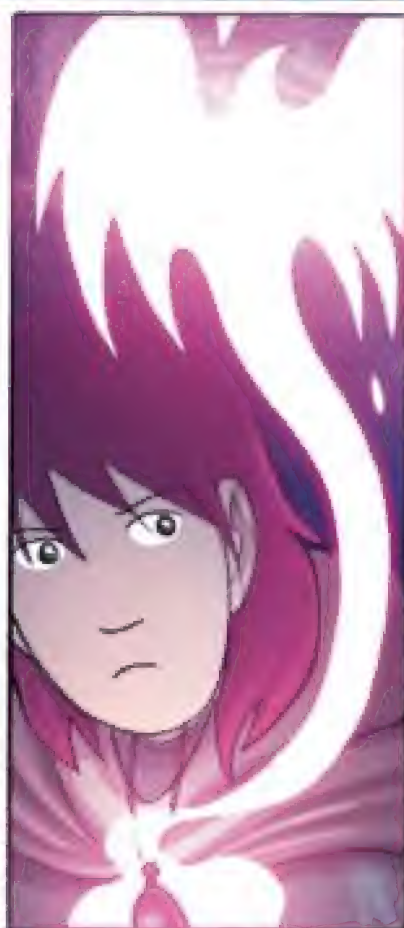


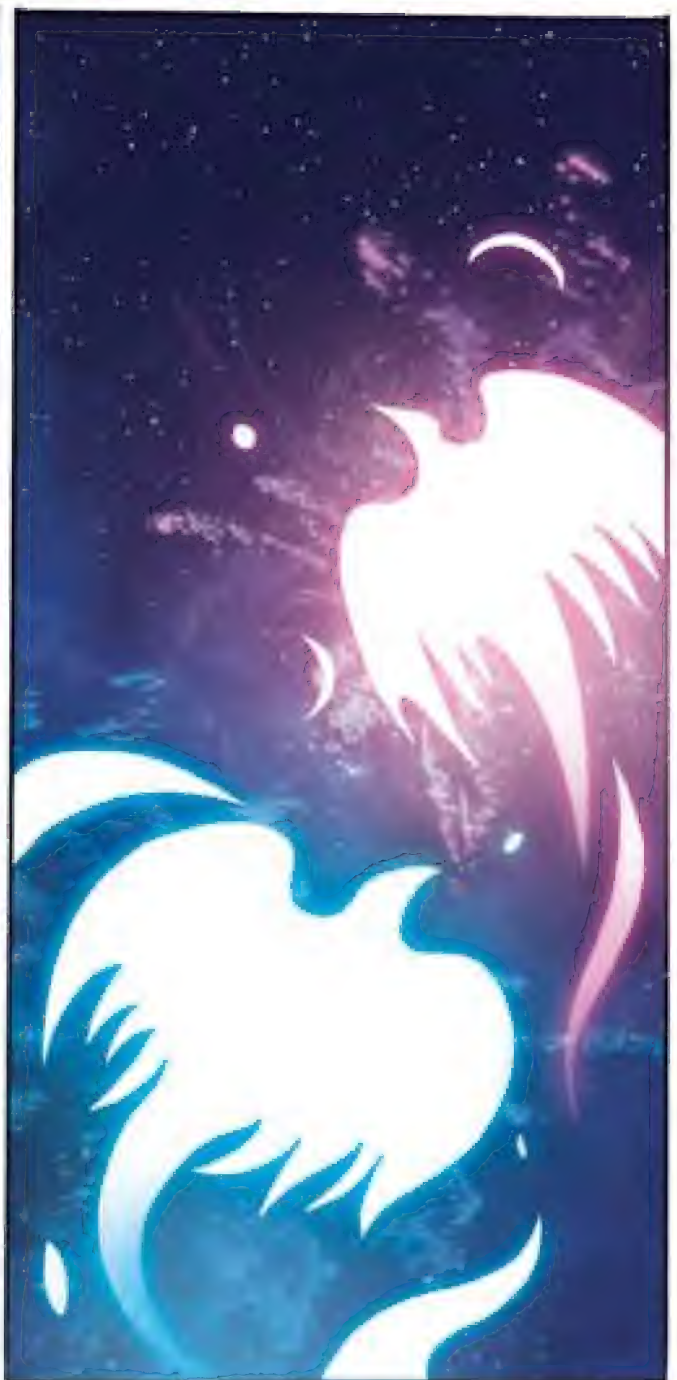
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HER AND
ME IS THAT SHE FELT
SHE HAD A CHOICE.



I MAY NOT
BE AS CLEVER
AS MAX,

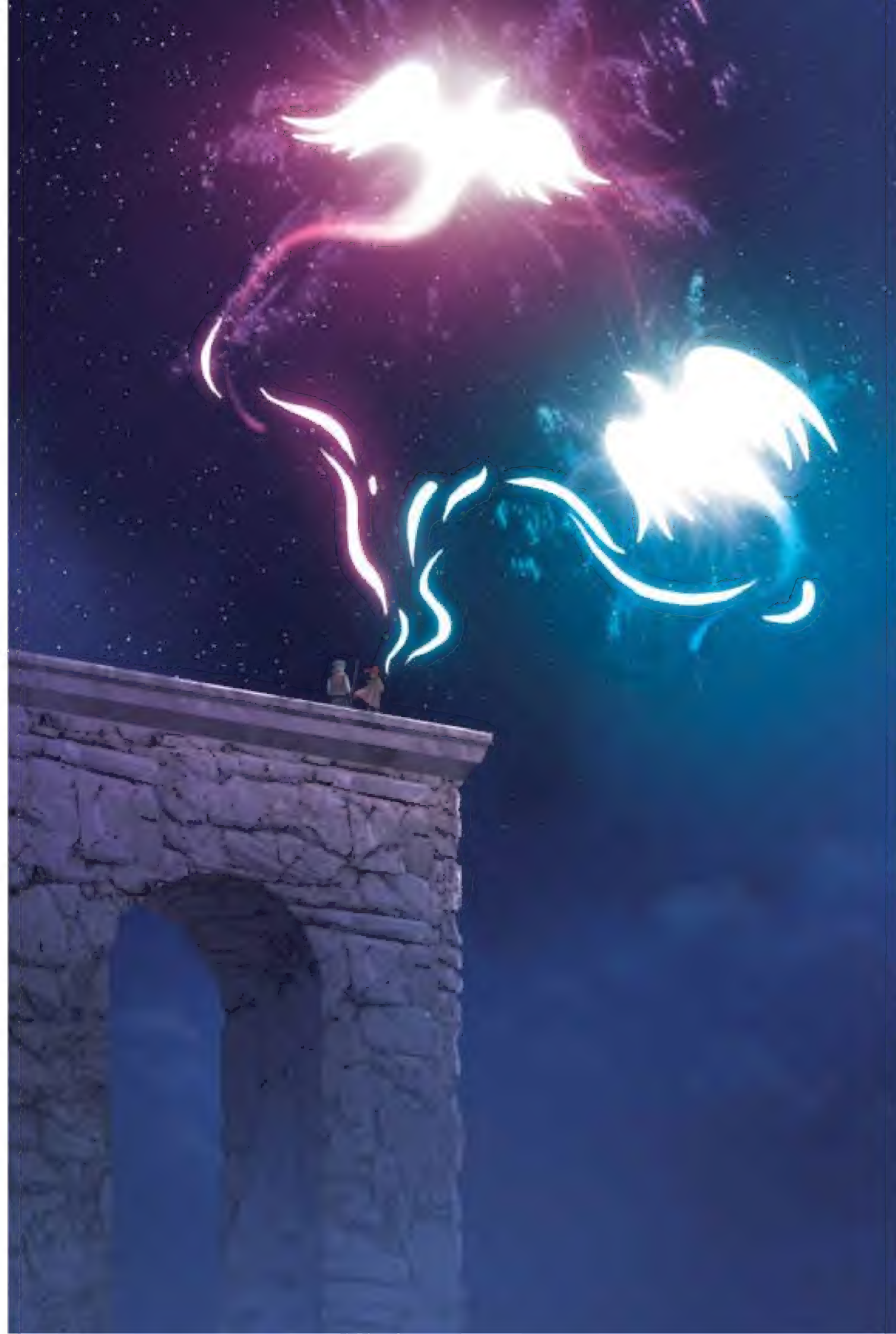
OR AS
SKILLED AS
RONIN...





END OF BOOK FOUR







for Julie

CREATED AT
BOLT CITY
P R O D U C T I O N S
IN ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

KAZU KIBUISHI

LEAD PRODUCTION ARTIST

JASON CAFFOE

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SPECIAL THANKS

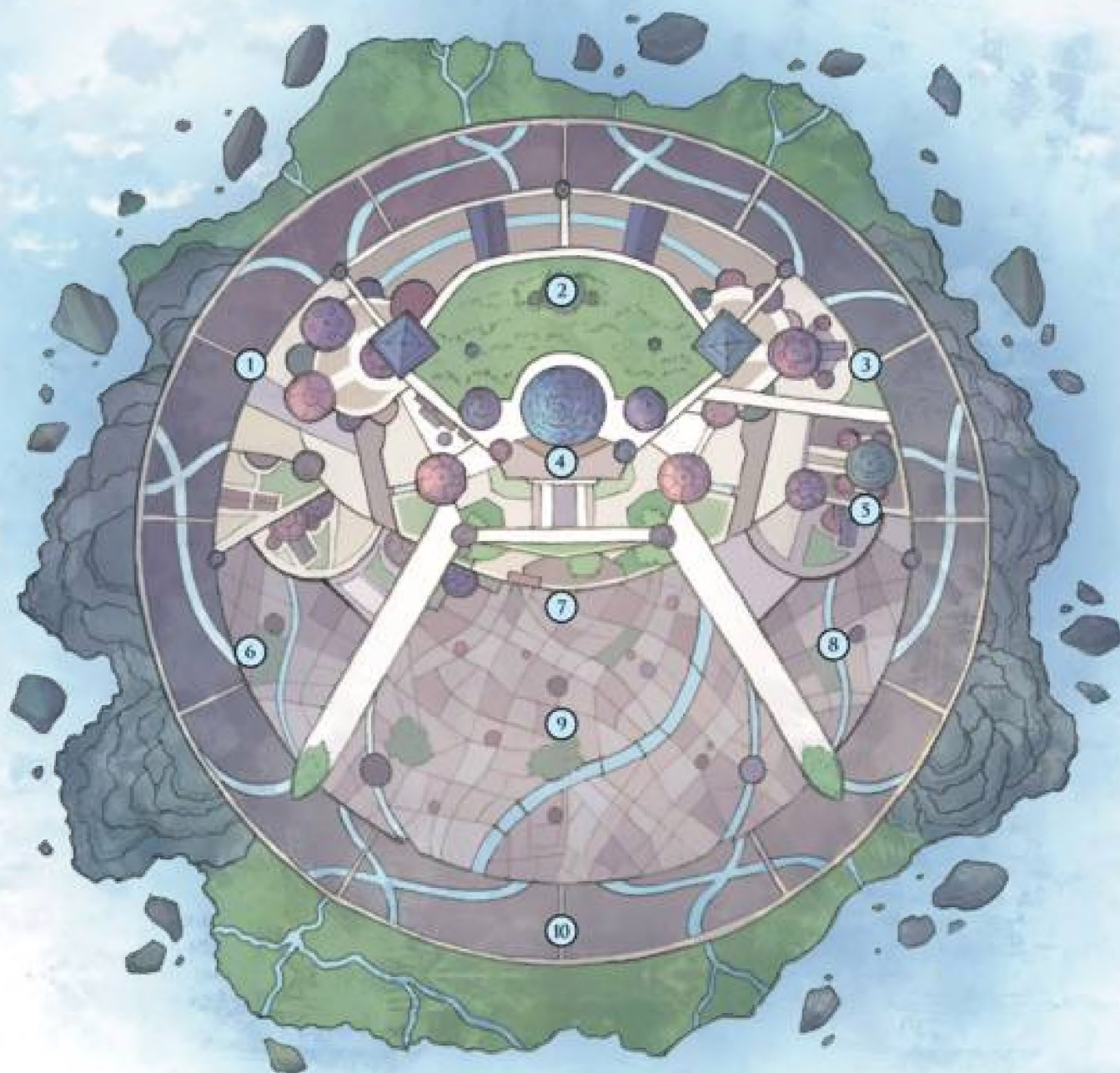
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kazu Kibuishi is the creator of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Amulet series. He is also the founder and editor of the acclaimed Flight anthologies, and is the creator of *Copper*, a collection of his popular webcomic that features an adventuresome boy-and-dog pair. Most recently, Kazu reimaged and illustrated the covers of the 15th anniversary paperback editions of the Harry Potter series. He lives and works in Seattle, Washington, with his wife, Amy Kim Kibuishi, and their children.

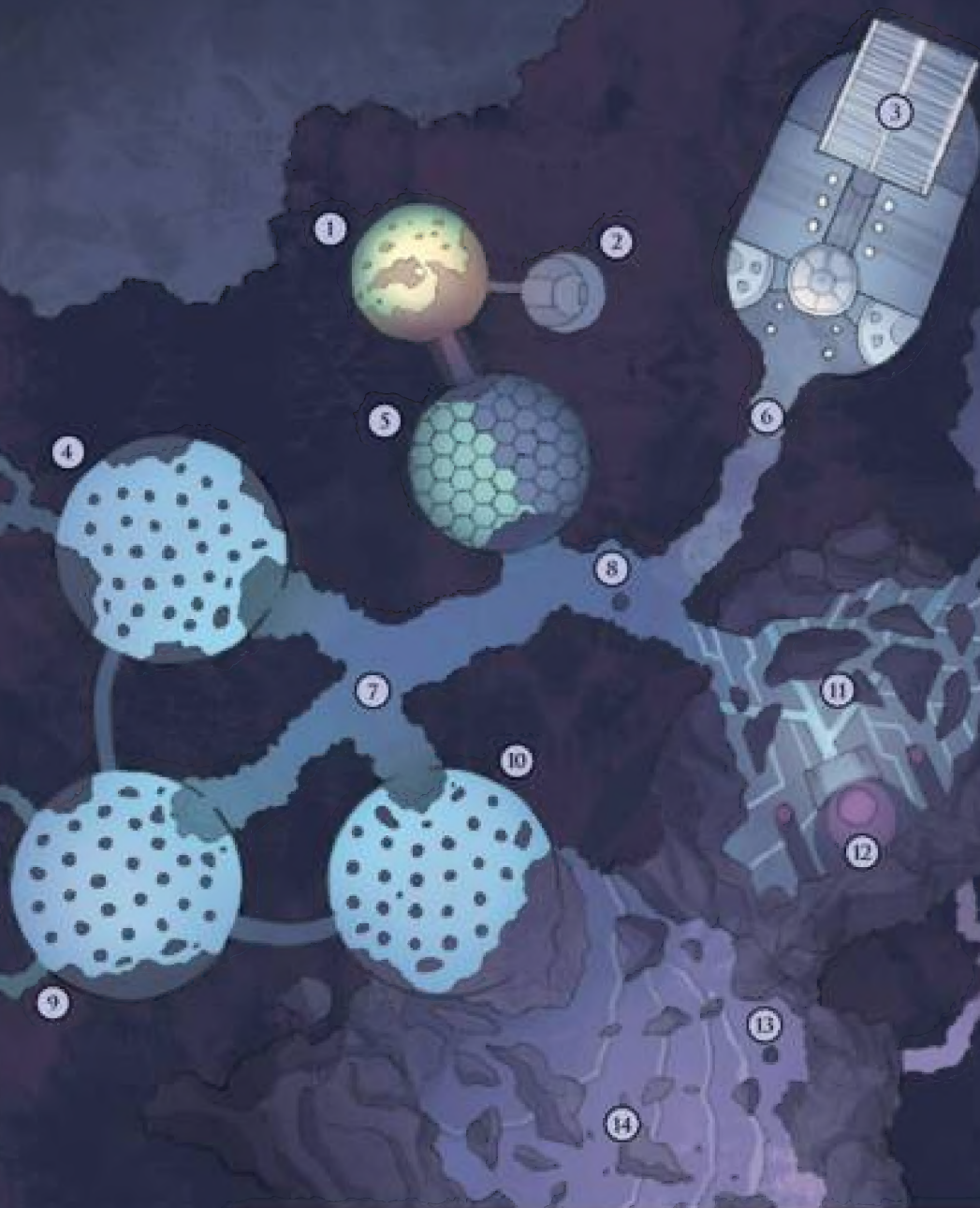
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MAP OF CIELIS



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ZEPPELIN KEEP | 6. SHIPBUILDER'S MARKET |
| 2. GARDEN OF KEEPERS | 7. AIRSHIP DOCKS |
| 3. GUARDIAN CASTLE | 8. NIMBUS SQUARE |
| 4. COUNCIL CHAMBER | 9. CIELAN SPAN |
| 5. YARBORO PRISON | 10. WATERFALL CORRIDOR |

CATACOMBS OF CIELIS



- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. MOTHER STONE CHAMBER | 8. TRANSPORE |
| 2. STONECUTTER ALCOVE | 9. ALTO CISTERN |
| 3. GUARDIAN TOMB | 10. NIMBUS CISTERN |
| 4. STRATUS CISTERN | 11. ROBOT MINES |
| 5. HEXAGON FIELD | 12. COLOSSUS WORKSHOP |
| 6. STONEKEEPER CATHEDRAL | 13. TRANSPORE |
| 7. COLOSSAL HALLS | 14. CRYSTAL GROTTO |



A FALLEN CITY WHERE TERRIBLE SECRETS ARE REVEALED . . .

Emily and her friends think they'll find the help they need in Cielis, but something isn't right. Streets that were once busy are deserted, and the townspeople who are left live in fear. Emily is soon escorted to the Academy, where she's expected to compete for a spot on the Guardian Council, a group of the most powerful Stonekeepers. But as the number of competitors gets smaller and smaller, an awful secret is slowly uncovered – a secret that, if left buried, means the certain destruction of everything Emily fights for.

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Publishers Weekly

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